

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00778 251120Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /029 W
-----251302 041704 /45

R 250953Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7189
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL BRISBANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 0778

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, VS, SN, MY, TH
SUBJ: WCRP VESSEL ACTIVITIES

REF: A. SINGAPORE 0685; B. SINGAPORE 0524

1. WCRP SECGEN HOMER JACK HAS INFORMED CONSOFF HE USED OCCASION
OF DEPARTURE OF THICH NHAT HAN AS JUSTIFICATION TO DISMISS
HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATE CAO NGOC THUONG. HOWEVER, HE ASSERTS
SISTER CAO IS STILL WORKING TO SUBVERT HIS EFFORTS AND TAKE
REFUGEES TO AUSTRALIA. JACK BELIEVES CAO IS CURRENTLY ABOARD
THE LEAP DAL. SINCE JACK WAS UNCERTAIN HOW MUCH HE COULD TRUST
OWNERS OF LEAP DAL AND ROLAND TO COOPERATE WITH HIM RATHER
THAN HIS FORMER ASSOCIATES, HE REQUESTED EMBASSY MEET WITH OWNERS
AND EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE USG PLACES ON THE OWNERS' COOPERATION
WITH JACK AND THE UNHCR. SINCE THE OWNER OF THE ROLAND,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00778 251120Z

RICHARD PASCOE, IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND THE OWNER OF THE LEAP
DAL, THAI PHUOC, HAS U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS,
DCM AGREED TO MEET WITH THEM. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS ON FEBRUARY
24, DCM URGED THEM TO BE PATIENT AND COOPERATE WITH HOMER JACK
AND UNHCR TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

2. THAI PHUOC REPORTED LEAP DAL IS PRESENTLY EAST OF SINGAPORE

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF JOHORE. THAI PLANNED TO BOARD THE SHIP ON FEB. 25 TO OBTAIN A LIST OF THE REFUGEES FOR UNHCR. HE INDICATED THERE ARE NOW SOME 250 REFUGEES ABOARD THE LEAP DAL, AND THAT MAJORITY CAME FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN THAILAND. ACCORDING TO THAI PHUOC, LEAP DAL IS INSUFFICIENTLY SEAWORTHY TO UNDERTAKE A VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA OR GUAM. TELCON WITH JACK REVEALED HE INTENDS TO ACCOMPANY THAI PHUOC ON VISIT TO SHIP TO VERIFY REPORT THAT CAO IS ABOARD AND TO ASSESS MORALE OF REFUGEES WHICH IS REPORTEDLY DETERIORATING. THAI PHUOC RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO DCM'S REQUEST THAT HE COOPERATE WITH HOMER JACK AND UNHCR, BUT SEEMED APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE MORALE OF THE REFUGEES. HE INDICATED THAT ANY EFFORT TO MOVE THE REFUGEES BACK TO THAILAND REFUGEE CAMPS WOULD BE STRONGLY RESISTED BY THE REFUGEES AND WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION.

3. IN SEPARATE MEETING PASCOE REPORTED THAT ROLAND IS NOW IN MALACCA. HE SAID THAT SHIP WAS WELL PROVISIONED WITH FOOD AND NOW HAS A FUEL BARGE, GIVING IT THE CAPACITY TO GO AS FAR AS HAWAII. HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 300 REFUGEES ABOARD THE SHIP, OF WHICH 200 HAD BEEN IN CAMPS IN MALAYSIA AND ANOTHER 100 HAD BEEN PICKED UP AT SEA. PASCOE NOTED A LOT OF UNREST AMONG THE ROLAND REFUGEES, WHO WERE ORIGINALLY PROMISED BY ASSOCIATES OF THICH NHAT HAN THAT THEY WOULD GO TO AUSTRALIA. THE CREW IS VERY SMALL, AND HE FEARS A MUTINY IF THE REFUGEES ARE TOLD THEY MUST RETURN TO A CAMP. MOREOVER, THE REFUGEES HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE AMONG THEIR NUMBERS TO SAIL THE VESSEL TO AUSTRALIA OR GUAM. FORTUNATELY, THE TENSION WAS LOWERED SOMEWHAT IN MALACCA BY THE DEPARTURE OF 15 REFUGEES ACCEPTED BY AUSTRIA. PASCOE ASSERTS HE INTENDS TO WORK WITH JACK, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00778 251120Z

ADDED THAT IF THE REFUGEES DEMAND TO LEAVE MALACCA THE CREW MAY BE INCAPABLE OF RESISTING THEIR DEMANDS. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT IN THE CRUNCH HE WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT THE JUDGMENT OF THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL. HE BELIEVED ONWARD MOVEMENT OF ADDITIONAL REFUGEES COULD HELP DEFUSE THE SITUATION. UNHCR REP IS TO VISIT ROLAND ON FEB. 25, AND JACK'S WIFE, CURRENTLY IN MALACCA, IS TO BE ON HAND TO ASSESS SITUATION ON BOARD VESSEL.

4. CONOFF SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED JACK TO REPORT MEETINGS WITH SHIP OWNERS. JACK WAS APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY EFFORT, AND ALTHOUGH LINGERING FEARS OF INTRIGUE BETWEEN OWNERS AND ASSOCIATES OF THICH NHAT HAN REMAINED, HIS PERTUBATIONS WERE SOMEWHAT ASSUAGED. WHEN JACK RECEIVES THE REFUGEE LIST FROM THE LEAP DAL, HE INTENDS TO APPROACH GOM IN ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE FOR LEAP DAL TO GO TO KUANTAN AS WAS PREVIOUSLY DONE WITH ROLAND. FACT THAT MOST REFUGEES CAME FROM THAILAND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COMPLICATE SUCH EFFORTS. JACK ALSO INTENDS TO HAVE ROLAND PROCEED TO KUANTAN AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED (REFTEL B). HOWEVER, FROM PASCOE'S COMMENTS REFUGEES WILL BE SERIOUSLY UPSET IF SHIP PURSUES A NORTHERLY

COURSE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, FEARING THAT THIS MIGHT INVOLVE
A RETURN TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS OR EVEN WORSE, A RETURN TO VIETNAM.
PASCOE INDICATED THAT THE 100 REFUGEES ON THE ROLAND WHO HAD
BEEN PICKED UP AT SEA MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO BE MOVED TO A
REFUGEE CAMP IN MALAYSIA. HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, SEA RESCUES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP00778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770065-1147
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977028/aaaaahck.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68bccdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 685, 77 SINGAPORE 524
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3426225
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WCRP VESSEL ACTIVITIES
TAGS: SREF, VS, SN, MY, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68bccdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009